

Message Text

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SUBJ GARRISON DIVERSION-EDITORIAL COMMENT

1. FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN SEPTEMBER 3 MONTREAL
STAR: BEGIN QUOTE-CANADA REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL MORE
ASSURANCE OVER UNITED STATES INTENTIONS THAN WAS CONTAINED
IN THE NONCHALANT STATEMENTS ISSUED AFTER THE LATEST
CONFERENCE ON DISPOSAL OF WATER FROM A PROPOSED MASSIVE
IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN NORTH DAKOTA.

THERE IS NO DANGER THAT LAKE WINNIPEG IS ON THE VERGE
OF BECOMING ANOTHER CESSPOOL LIKE LAKE ERIE, BECAUSE THE
WHOLE MISSOURI RIVER DIVERSION SCHEME IS PROGRESSING SLOWLY.
BUT CANADIAN EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE PLAN CANNOT BE RELAXED
JUST ON A MATTER OF TIMING. INDEED, REALISM DICTATES THAT
THE LONGER THE EXPENSIVE WORK GOES ON--ABOUT \$65 MILLION
OF AN ESTIMATED \$400 MILLION HAS ALREADY BEEN SPENT--THE
LESS LIKELY WASHINGTON WILL BE AMENABLE TO WIPING OUT THE
CAPITAL INVENTMENT.

ON THE HEELS OF CANADA'S FORMAL PROTEST LAST FALL,
THE UNITED STATES DID PROMISE TO ABIDE BY OBLIGATIONS
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UNDER THE BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY OF 1909, BUT ITS IN-

TERPRETATION OF OBLIGATIONS IS STRANGE IN VIEW OF THE BASIC PROVISION OF THAT TREATY: "WATER FLOWING ACROSS THE BOUNDARY SHALL NOT BE POLLUTED ON EITHER SIDE TO THE INJURY OF THE HEALTH OR PROPERTY OF THE OTHER. AND IT HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT THE LEECHING EFFECT OF THE IRRIGATION FLOW WILL SO INCREASE THE SALINE CONTENT OF THE RED AND SOURIS RIVERS, AND ULTIMATELY LAKE WINNIPEG, THAT INCALCULABLE DAMAGE WILL BE DONE.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION HAS BEGUN A STUDY OF THE PROJECT, BUT WILL NEED ABOUT FOUR YEARS TO TABLE DEFINITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL BE NO MORE MEANINGFUL THAN THE UNITED STATES WANTS THEM TO BE. MEANWHILE, OTTAWA'S REQUEST FOR A MORATORIUM STANDS REJECTED, REGARDLESS OF THE TREATY. IT IS ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE SAD SITUATIONS: IT IS NOT, AS ONE SYMPATHETIC AMERICAN SCIENTIST PUT IT, THAT THE UNITED STATES DELIBERATELY WANTS TO JEOPARDIZE CANADIAN WATER RESOURCES BUT BECAUSE IT SIMPLY NEVER BOTHERED TO TAKE THEM INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE FIRST PLACE. END QUOTE.

2. AUGUST 30 OTTAWA JOURNAL PUBLISHED LENGTHY ARTICLE ENTITLED: "TORIES FEAR NDP TOO SOFT ON GARRISON DIVERSION SCHEME." ARTICLE REPORTS POLITICAL JOCKEYING TAKING PLACE IN MANITOBA AND CONSERVATIVE PARTY PRESSURE ON NDP PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MORE FORCEFUL LINE ON PROJECT AND TO MAKE OWN EVALUATION OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. JOHNSON

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